

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from the Wittstock Troop Training Grounds

25X1

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

ED 12 September 1952

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [] a field exercise involving about 100 trucks and motorcycles and two tanks began at 2:30 p.m. on 18 August 1952. The exercise moved from the direction of Liebethal through Blandikow in the direction of Tetow. When the forward elements of the practicing unit reached the woods, 2 km north of Blandikow, they came under fire which continued until the entire unit had closed up. A smoke screen was laid over the training area and the exercise was then terminated.

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2. On 18 August, 50 to 60 sidcar motorcycles, 4 armored personnel carriers [] 2 tanks and 10 trucks [] were seen engaged in a field exercise along the Blandikow-Tetow road. The exercise terminated at about 5:15 p.m. * At 7:45 a.m. on 20 August, a train consisting of nine boxcars with personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying 4 x 85-mm AA guns, 4 x 37-mm AA guns, 4 AA machine guns and 1 truck passed through the Blumenthal railroad station, coming from the direction of Pritzwalk (M 54/T 91) and proceeding in the direction of Kyritz. ** At 2 p.m. on 21 August, JS tanks fired with live ammunition about 1 km northeast of Schweinrich. An engineer unit wearing black-bordered black epaulets practiced on the north bank of the Dranse See about 500 meters south of Griebsee at 2:30 p.m. *
3. At 6:30 a.m. on 14 August, an empty train consisting of 9 boxcars and 40 to 50 flatcars and 2 locomotives was ready for departure at the Dranse railroad station. At the same time, [] a column moved to the station from the direction of the troop training grounds. The unit had numerous trucks each towing a 160-mm mortar. 25X1

4. At the hutment in Schweinrich on 17 July, [] numerous personnel trained on at least 60 guns of various types, including and upwards of 76.2-mm, behind the tank shed of the camp. An armored half-track vehicle with a boxlike superstructure which was occupied by 10 soldiers was seen at the training area. The cab of this vehicle mounted twin machine guns and a canvas-covered barrel, about 120 cm long and 160 mm in diameter. This barrel was fixed on the roof of the cab [] of the German close-combat weapon referred to as Ofenrohr. [] 25X1

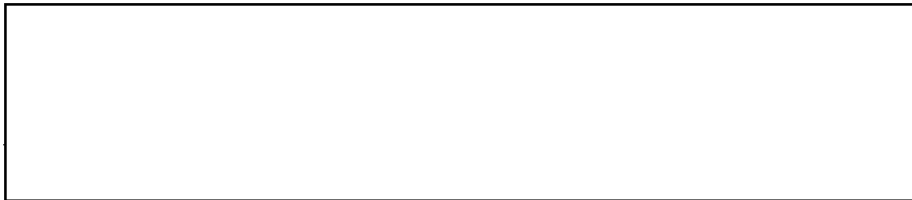
CLASSIFICATION

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On 24 and 25 July, large field exercises were conducted in the area between Sewekow (N 54/U 22) and Berlinchen. They involved tanks, armored scout cars and AT guns [redacted] came from Camp Schweinrich. The Sewekow-Berlinchen road was blocked daily between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. *

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* [redacted] Comment. Beginning in late July 1952, large field exercises probably up to regimental strength were conducted by units believed to belong to the 18th Mecz Div. As in 1951, these exercises also extended as far as the Wittstock troop training grounds. The troop training grounds was apparently occupied by the bulk of the division until 21 August and apparently no change had taken place since the last report on 12 August. [redacted] Some of the motor



** [redacted] Comment. The train carrying AA guns probably was the train which, according to records on transportation, went from Kroepelin to Doetzow on 20 August 1952. [redacted]

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